



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2004

For Information Contact Public Affairs

SANDY RAYNOR

Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

6025252681@message.alltel.com

CRAIG PRITCHERT SENTENCED TODAY FOR BANK ROBBERIES

PHOENIX – United States Attorneys Paul K. Charlton (Arizona), John Suthers (Colorado) and Karin Immergut (Oregon) announced today that Craig Michael Pritchert, DOB 2/13/61, of Scottsdale, Ariz., was sentenced to 22.5 years in federal prison to be followed by five years of supervised release on three counts of Armed Bank Robbery and one count of Using a Firearm During a Crime of Violence by U.S. District Court Judge Robert C. Broomfield in federal district court in Phoenix. He is also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$206,406. Pritchert had previously pleaded guilty to the bank robberies on June 15, 2004.

Pritchert had been charged with violating Title 18 of U.S. Code, Section 2113(a) and (d), Armed Bank Robbery, and Title 18 of U.S. Code, Section 924(c), Use of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence. Pritchert was charged with robbing banks in Arizona, Colorado and Oregon during which he used a gun and a disguise. Pritchert stole approximately \$120,000 in Oregon, approximately \$64,600 in Colorado and approximately \$32,200 in Arizona. Pritchert was captured with his co-defendant in the Colorado and Oregon robberies, Nova Esther Guthrie, in Capetown, South Africa on August 18, 2003.

-MORE-

Shortly after the Oregon robbery, Guthrie and Pritchert became fugitives and traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Central America and the United Kingdom

under assumed identities. Ultimately they were located in South Africa in August 2003 based on a tip from an informant who had viewed media coverage regarding their fugitive status.

The Guthrie and Pritchert cases were investigated extensively by the FBI, particularly by the Phoenix, Denver and Portland Divisions. Guthrie is scheduled to be sentenced in Colorado on September 22, 2004.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael Kemp in Arizona, Robert Kennedy in Colorado, and Jeff Kent in Oregon.

CASE NUMBER: CR-CR-97-434-PHX-RCB, CR-04-478-PHX-RCB,
and CR-04-479-PHX-RCB

RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-150

#

United States Attorney's Office Press Releases are also on the Internet
Visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/az>

-MORE-